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## UFO YEAR IN REVIEW: 1994

The 47th year of the modern UFO era was marked by the first official UFO-related report from the U.S. Government in 25 years, and by the continuation of almost 50 years of sightings. The level of scientific interest and activity continues to rise.

### Sightings

The majority of current reports of alleged UFOs describe odd lights in the night sky, which are exceedingly difficult to investigate because they contain so little information. But an increasing number of reports in 1994 were of distinct objects, rather than just lights. Many of these objects were said to be triangular in shape and able to fly silently at unusually low speed (under 50 mph) and then quickly accelerate to very high speed.

In March, there was a rash of reports from southwestern Michigan, triggered by the tracking of several unexplained targets by U.S. Weather Service radar and by visual sightings. For several nights, reports poured in to newspapers, radio and TV stations, airports, etc., from average and from skilled observers. No explanations were forthcoming.

### Government Activity

In January, following his inability to get a satisfactory explanation for the July, 1947, UFO? crash in New Mexico from the Secretary of Defense, Rep. Steve Schiff (R, NM) formally asked the General Accounting Office to investigate. The GAO then set out to search for government documents related to this incident, which was highly publicized at the time. No date has been set for the GAO's report to Rep. Schiff, but the GAO has said it will turn over everything it finds to Rep. Schiff. And he has stated that everything he learns will be made public.

In October, the U.S. Air Force announced the results of its effort, in support of the GAO, to find documentary evidence of the so-called "Roswell incident". Rather than turn over its information to the GAO, it



chose to make it public, announcing that it had "discovered" that what had been recovered in New Mexico was the remains of a then-cluster of balloons launched as part of tests for the then-secret Project Mogul. Enthusiasm for this "explanation" was hinted at almost two years before, by two former Project Mogul employees, as the project had been declassified many years earlier.

In response to the USAF report, the Fund for UFO Research pointed out that the remains of synthetic rubber balloons known to have been used by Project Mogul in early July, 1947, bore no resemblance to the materials described by first-hand witnesses to the Roswell crash. Moreover, the USAF report states that such balloon materials disintegrate in a few days. This would have left nothing that witnesses would have noticed, let alone found mysterious, aside from easily-identified pieces of flimsy radar reflectors.

### **Abductions**

Despite the truly bizarre nature of these claims of highly unwelcome interference in personal lives by presumed aliens, reports of such activity continue to stream in. They contain striking patterns and similarities, as well as specific items of description that have been kept out of publication so they can be used as internal checks. It appears that thousands of apparently innocent individuals in all parts of the world are involved in the same strange experiences, which mental health professionals have been unable to explain.

Publication is expected early in 1995 of the proceedings of a scientific conference on abductions held at (but not by) the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This 600-page report will be distributed to university libraries, medical schools and other facilities where they can be studied by interested professionals. Any member of the press wishing a copy should contact the Fund for UFO Research, Inc.

In addition, a computer database of abduction cases is nearing the stage where it will be made available to qualified professionals who wish to study a large body of information in their efforts to understand this peculiar phenomenon.

### **Scientific Research**

The funding available for serious scientific research into the UFO mystery has increased considerably, thanks to the support of the Bigelow Foundation, of Las Vegas, Nev. Advising the Foundation are representatives of the three major private UFO organizations: the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, Chicago, Ill.; the Mutual UFO Network, Sequin, Tex., and the Fund for UFO Research. Research proposals are being invited, and the results of research will be published.

### **Peripheral Matters**

**CROP FORMATIONS.** For many years, scores and even hundreds of precise, complex formations have appeared in fields of grain, mainly in the southwest of England. There is little basis for assuming any direct connection to UFOs, though this is one of many explanations being considered. Some and possibly many or even all of these formations could well be hoaxes, as the ability to hoax formations and fool so-called experts has been demonstrated. Yet despite the drop in press attention being paid them, the formations continued to appear in England and North America in 1994.

**CATTLE MUTILATIONS.** Reports of allegedly high-tech mutilations of cows, horses and other farm animals have continued to come in. While these, too, are only speculatively connected to UFOs, the possibility exists.

### **Highlights of the Fund's Year**

A study of strange images on Shuttle Discovery videotape, to be published in 1995.

A pilot study of UFO cases involving radiation injuries.

Expanded research into the massive 1947 wave of UFO reports.

Work on the UFO papers of the late Dr. James McDonald, senior atmospheric physicist at the University of Arizona.

Symposia on Government secrecy, and on "abductions."

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